



Brentwood Urban District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER

## OF HEALTH

FOR

1942



# Brentwood Urban District Council

## MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**Chairman:** Councillor E. G. Stone, J.P.

**Vice-Chairman:** Councillor H. J. Farrow.

### Councillors:

Mrs. E. A. F. Banwell.	W. E. Lane.
W. F. R. Boardman.	T. N. Lavender.
H. E. Brownnett.	Mrs. M. A. Masefield (Chairman of the Health Committee).
A. V. Cave.	G. A. D. McTurk.
F. Collins.	T. H. Scrivener.
H. N. Fuller (Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee).	W. G. Stevens, J.P.
R. Garstang.	W. P. Tabor.
R. R. Hilton.	W. S. Venner.
J. F. Hough, M.A.	R. H. Willard.
G. A. Joslin.	S. A. Wilson.
H. J. Kirby.	S. J. Wingrave.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Part Time):

B. Fraser Beatson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.  
(late Indian Medical Service and R.A.F. Medical Service).

### BACTERIOLOGIST AND ANALYST:

E. V. Suckling, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,  
The Counties Public Health Laboratories,  
Gidea Park, Essex.

### SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

F. G. Spencer, M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food  
Inspector, and Smoke Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

### ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

E. Badcock, M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food  
Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute (resigned March, 1942),  
(now vacant).

### CLERKS AND SHORTHAND TYPISTS:

Miss P. E. B. Wenden (resigned April, 1942).  
Miss R. E. M. Bailey (appointed April, 1942).

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Miss D. Clarke (resigned March, 1942).  
Miss V. L. Ledden (appointed March, 1942).

**BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1942.*

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1942, which again follows the restricted lines of previous years.

Despite the continuing difficulties and hazards of War, the health of the district has been maintained at a satisfactory level. The incidence of notifiable disease has been remarkably low.

During the year under review the Department lost the services of Mr. E. Badcock, Additional Sanitary Inspector, who obtained an appointment under another Authority after 6½ years of excellent service in Brentwood.

On the clerical side, Miss P. E. B. Wenden, who had ably held the post of Chief Clerk since the outbreak of War, left the service of the Council on transfer as a Mobile V.A.D. Officer.

To the Senior Sanitary Inspector (who as usual has helped with the compilation of this Report) I am indebted for another year of painstaking work.

I have also to record with pleasure that Brentwood was twice visited in an official capacity by the Minister of Health (Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P.), when he performed ceremonies at the London Hospital Annexe and at "Childhaven," thereby giving an unique opportunity for personal contact with local Officials.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health,

## SECTION B.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### **Water Supply.**

During the year 1942, 39 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological and for chemical analysis with the following results :—

24 samples from public supplies, these were satisfactory.

8 samples from wells, all of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

2 samples from a spring showed evidence of contamination and were unsatisfactory.

5 samples were taken from swimming baths. Two of these relating to private baths were found to be unsatisfactory.

#### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

		Inspections.	Re-inspections.
Housing (Overcrowding)	....	8	<u>—</u>
Sanitary Defects	....	146	255
Infectious Diseases	....	83	6
Dirty or Verminous	....	27	43
Water Supply	....	6	4
Factories—Power	....	5	1
Factories—Non-Power	....	4	<u>—</u>
Bakehouses	....	3	<u>—</u>
Drains Inspected	....	49	41
Drains Tested	....	7	1
Sewers	....	2	<u>—</u>
Cesspools	....	18	2
Accumulations of Refuse	....	13	<u>—</u>
Swine, Fowls, etc.	....	8	1
Stables	....	1	1
Refuse Tips	....	3	<u>—</u>
Rat-infested Premises	....	46	80
Ponds, Ditches, Watercourses	....	18	11
Miscellaneous Visits	....	95	<u>—</u>

#### **Civil Defence.**

Emergency Mortuaries	....	9
Decontamination Services	....	95
Public Shelters	....	7

#### **Food Inspection.**

Slaughterhouses	....	179
.. Evening	....	19
Meat Shops	....	68
Provision and other Food Shops	....	170
Dairies and Milk Shops	....	33
Cowsheds	....	176
Samples of Milk	....	57
Samples of Water	....	39
Food Stores	....	1
Food Salvage	....	17
Horseflesh Shops	....	31

## SECTION C.

### HOUSING.

1. (a) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....	92
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ....	194
2. Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit ....	77
3. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .... ....	65
4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ....	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners .... .... .... ....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ....	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .... .... .... ....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners .... .... .... ....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ....	Nil

## SECTION D.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

#### Milk Sampling.

##### Certified Producers—

Number of samples taken .... .... .... ....	1
Number of samples satisfactory .... .... .... ....	1

##### Accredited Producers—

Number of samples taken .... .... .... ....	21
Number of samples satisfactory .... .... .... ....	12

9 samples failed in the Coliform Test.

7 samples failed in the Methylene Blue Test.

All samples submitted to Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests.

##### Pasteurised Milk—

Number of samples taken .... .... .... ....	18
Number of samples satisfactory .... .... .... ....	16

2 samples failed to pass the Bacteriological Test.

**Undesignated Milk—**

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	17
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	11
All samples submitted to Bacteriological and Coliform Tests.					

**Meat and Other Foods.**

Slaughterhouses in use	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	198
Total number of carcases inspected	...	...	...	...	...	445
Total weight of meat and other foodstuffs condemned—					3 tons 13 cwts. 2 qrs. 19 lbs.	

**Knackers Yards.**

Number of premises	....	....	....	....	....	1
Number of inspections	....	....	....	....	....	89

**Meat and Other Foods.**

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number of Inspections	119	158	7	63	98
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	25	21	1	17	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	21.00	13.29	28.57	26.98	4.08
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	3	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	88	—	—	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.60	57.59	—	—	19.38

## SECTION E.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

#### **Diphtheria.**

It is pleasing to record that there have been very few cases of **Diphtheria notified** during the year, and that only one case has ended fatally. The total figure falls one short of the previous record established in 1938.

Every effort has been made to increase the number of children protected from this deadly disease by immunisation. Wireless broadcasts by the B.B.C., a personal letter from the Minister of Health to parents, posters, etc., all had their effect in driving into the minds of the population the need for this simple and painless inoculation of children as soon after the age of one year as possible.

The number of immunisations of children (882) carried out at the Combined Treatment Centre constitutes a record for any year since the inauguration of the scheme in 1936.

The immunisation material used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid, supplied gratis by the Ministry of Health.

The figures of immunisations carried out at the Combined Treatment Centre (kindly lent by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer) are as follows :—

	Complete.	Incomplete.	Total.
Children (ages 1 year to 15 years) ....	622	260	
Adults .... .... ....	14	—	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	636	260	896
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The majority of children incompletely immunised were due for their second inoculation early in 1943. Only a small proportion was the result of failure to attend.

In addition a number of immunisations were carried out by Medical Practitioners privately.

#### **Measles.**

Following an epidemic in 1941, not a single case of Measles was notified during 1942 until the end of May.

During the second half of the year there was a mild seasonal incidence, 68% of the cases occurring in Hutton Residential Schools.

A supply of Immune Globulin was again available in the Department for free issue to Medical Practitioners requiring it for use in poor families.

### **Whooping Cough.**

This disease also showed a marked diminution from the previous year's figures.

### **Dysentery.**

There was a fall in the incidence of Dysentery, two-thirds of the cases occurring at Warley Mental Hospital.

Two-thirds of the infections were due to *B. Sönne*—the remainder to *B. Flexner*.

### **Other Notifiable Diseases.**

No cases of the following were recorded:—  
Small Pox, Typhoid, Paratyphoid, Acute Encephalitis Lethargica, Acute Polioencephalitis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

### **Scabies.**

A number of cases of Scabies among school children were treated at the Combined Treatment Centre under County Council arrangements, but among the adult population no serious incidence was reported from any source.

### **Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease.**

The services for these diseases are administered by the County Council.

## ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.      Age Groups.      Totals.

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	1	10	9	31	5	1	5	2	—	—	65
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	2	1	3	—	—	—	20
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	5	4	1	15
Dysentery	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	8	9	7	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	9	17	28	24	22	51	7	1	2	1	1	163
Measles	...	...	5	18	41	40	26	18	2	2	—	1	—	155
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1



